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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Powell: We've assured Turkey on PKK - Hurriyet
Powell: We will terminate the PKK - Milliyet
Amb. Black: No room for PKK in Iraq - Aksam
Joint struggle against PKK/KADEK - Hurriyet
Turkey, U.S. cooperation against terror - Turkiye
Gen. Sanchez: Location of Turkish troops depend on
their capability - Hurriyet
Government pushes button for troops to Iraq - Sabah
Khatemi gives warm messages to Turkey - Milliyet
Saddam seen in Kirkuk - Sabah
OIC's scandalous Cyprus report - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Turkey, U.S. agree to eliminate PKK in N. Iraq -
Radikal
Mark Parris: U.S.-Turkey relations must be redefined -
Yeni Safak
Erdogan in Rome for EU: Iran visit canceled - Zaman
Court OKs 'Terrorist Bush' t-shirts - Yeni Safak
Greek Court's historic report on Muslims - Radikal
600 new Israeli houses violate Roadmap - Zaman
Aliyev withdraws candidacy in favor of his son -
Cumhuriyet
North Korean making six atomic bombs - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Ambassador Black's Ankara meetings: Papers report that the U.S. and Turkey have outlined a joint strategy for stability in Iraq. U.S. State Department counter-terrorism coordinator Cofer Black said after meeting with MFA officials in Ankara on Thursday that there is no place for the PKK in Northern Iraq. Black noted that the plan of action envisaged legal, diplomatic, and financial measures against the PKK/KADEK, and that top PKK leaders would be handed over to Turkey. The Turks demanded that the Americans launch operations against PKK camps. The U.S. will also support Turkey's appeal to the EU to cut the financial resources of KADEK and its affiliates in Europe. The U.S. will press KADEK militants to apply to Turkish authorities to benefit from the amnesty law adopted by Ankara. The Americans are not very enthusiastic about joint military operations with Turkey. Ankara has asked for written guarantees about the implementation of the action plan, but an anonymous American official said that his word should be regarded as a sufficient guarantee by the Turks, "Cumhuriyet" notes. Ankara has demanded quick American action to eliminate the PKK, but the Americans prefer to wait until the deadline for the amnesty law passes.

Turkey's defense minister outlines reasons for Turks to be in Iraq: Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul said that 36 countries are currently backing the U.S. in Iraq, and that Turkey should send troops to further its national interests. Supporting Iraq's territorial integrity is the main reason why we should send troops, Gonul said. If Turkey is in Iraq, he continued, it will be able to set up a buffer zone against the terror threat posed by

the PKK. A Turkish presence in Iraq will ensure the uninterrupted flow of oil from Kirkuk to Turkey's Yumurtalik terminal. All ethnic groups will be given equal treatment once democracy is established in Iraq, Gonul stressed, and we need to be there during this transition period.

Turkish peacekeepers to Iraq: Prime Minister Erdogan said on Thursday that his government would decide about deploying troops in Iraq within 10-15 days. Papers expect the government to discuss the issue in the parliament on October 8 or 9.

Greek court might recognize Western Thrace Muslims: In a report to the Greek Supreme Court, Judge Kasavetis said that people have a right to decide on their own ethnic identity. He asked for removal of restrictions on the use of expressions like 'Western Thrace Turks.' Turkish dailies are hopeful that the Greek court might acknowledge the identity of over 100,000 Turks in Western Thrace. Papers believe that Athens, in line with EU norms, will have to give Turks living in Greece the right to declare openly their nationality.

Ankara angered at OIC over Cyprus: Ankara is outraged by a 'scandalous' Cyprus report submitted to the Organization for Islamic Conferences (OIC) by the OIC Secretary General, in which the Greek Cypriots are

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recognized as the legitimate government of Cyprus. Ankara had not been informed about the report in advance, and Egyptian diplomats allegedly briefed the Greek Cypriots about the event. Apart from Pakistan and Azerbaijan, OIC members have remained indifferent to Turkey's objections. Meanwhile, Ankara is making statements in support of Denktas on the eve of general elections in the Turkish Cypriot sector, "Cumhuriyet" notes.

Minister Tuzmen in Tehran: State Minister Kursad Tuzmen, in Tehran with a business delegation, said that Prime Minister Erdogan has not cancelled his visit to Iran. Papers believe that Turkey and Iran are making efforts to improve bilateral relations. Iranian President Khatemi warmly welcomed Tuzmen, and said he would accept Ankara's invitation to pay a visit to Turkey soon.

AKP on the rise, GP declining - poll: "Zaman" carries a public opinion poll carried out by the polling company ANAR in August. The poll indicated an increase in public support for the AK Party, and a decline for the Genc Party. The percentage of votes for political parties were reported as follows: AKP 38, CHP 12.3, MHP 6.7, Genc Party 6.4, DYP 5.5, DEHAP 4.2, ANAP 1.6.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/US-Turkey

"Joint Action with the US"
Hasan Cemal commented in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (10/3): "The issue of PKK-KADEK has played a key role on the troop deployment issue. Therefore, following the agreement on a joint action plan to eliminate the PKK-KADEK in Iraq, Turkey has come closer to sending its troops to Iraq. . The US has never officially made a link between Turkey's sending troops to Iraq and US efforts to eliminate the PKK, yet according to my diplomatic sources, such a linkage actually makes sense. . Nevertheless, Turkey should be realistic about its expectations from the US. There are limits even for the US under the special conditions in Northern Iraq. It goes without saying that these limits will be pushed back at some point, yet a realistic approach is best. It is also very wrong to limit Turkey-US cooperation in Iraq to the PKK-KADEK issue."

"The PKK?"
Erdal Guven opined in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (10/3): "Talks in Ankara with the US about the fight against terrorism have moved into a strange context. Ankara has raised the PKK once again as a military threat. The fact is that Turkey is one of the very few places where a terrorist threat has been eliminated solely through military means (Peru's

success against the Shining Path movement is another example). But the military's progress against the PKK has not been continued in the socio-political field, despite some recent steps taken to fulfill EU conditions. In its talks with the US, however, Turkey seems to be working to resurrect the PKK as a military threat. . The way Turkey has handled the issue gives the impression that Ankara is asking the US to make a choice between itself and the PKK. This is a serious tactical flow. It not only overlooks Turkish-American cooperation on the issue so far, but also pairs the PKK with Turkey in an odd way. . This may be a domestic political game of the ruling AKP. The government might be working on public opinion to give the following message: 'Turkey will send its troops to Iraq, and in return the US will eliminate the PKK from Iraq.' It looks like this is the tactic that the government is trying to pursue."

EDELMAN